(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of this proposal, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its Eighteenth Report on Electoral Reforms (Disqualification of persons from contesting elections on framing of charges against them for certain offences) presented to the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 2007 has recommended that suitable amendments may be made in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, so that a proclaimed absconder, declared under section 82 of the Criminal Procedure Code, who willfully remains absconding for a reasonable period of time such as one year prior to the date of revision of electoral rolls, may be considered for disqualification.

Suitable action on the recommendation of the Committee will be taken by the Government at an appropriate time, as part of overall process of reform of electoral laws.

Corruption in Judiciary

219. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several judges in High Courts/other courts have been found guilty of corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to have introspection/review on judicial appointments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India has informed that three cases of corruption have so far been considered by the present Chief Justice on India out of which two cases are pending for enquiry and the third case has been referred to the Government.

The judges of district and subordinate courts function under the administrative control of the State Governments/ High Courts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Constitution Review Commission

†220. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee or commission was ever constituted to review the Constitution; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes Sir. The Government of India through its Resolution dated 22.02.2000 set up 'The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC)'.

(b) The Commission submitted its report on 31st March 2002. The full text of the report of the Commission has been put on the Internet [www.lawmin.nic.in] and the report has also been forwarded to all Ministries/Departments. Action on the recommendations lies with the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, which are administratively concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations.

Clearing of pending cases

221. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the in-house mechanisms through which the higher judiciary (Supreme Court and High Courts) have been able to liquidate considerable backlog of pending cases during 2006 and 2007;

(b) whether it is proposed to further increase the strength of Supreme Court and High Courts so that within a foreseeable future, all the arrears are liquidated and in future arrears do not pile up; and

(c) what measures are being adopted to liquidate such arrears in lower courts, where the involvement of 'Aam Aadmi' is comparatively significant?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Steps taken in recent past to reduce arrears and expedite disposal of cases in higher judiciary:-

1. Grouping and Tagging:- The appeals / petitions arising out of the same order/ judgment or same subject matter/ cause are tagged and are heard and decided together.
2. Categorization.
3. Classification.
4. Group matters are given top priority.
5. Constitution Bench/larger Bench are sitting regularly to decide important question of law.
6. Cases of certain categories such as matters of senior citizens, Corruption cases, Undertrial Prisoners, Women are being heard on priority basis.
7. Mediation and Conciliation Centers have been set up.
8. Lok Adalats are being held.
9. Constitution of specialized Benches.